

Register, and billions in compliance costs for American farmers, small businesses, and families, much of this backed by flawed research with a political agenda.

The Office of Science and Technology aids in the regulatory process and is responsible for the faulty research that led to costly regulations like the social cost of carbon and the Clean Power Plan.

The American people need transparent research without an agenda. They don't need Obama-Biden era regulations and spending policies.

The amendment, once again, simply reduces funding for the EPA to reflect President Trump's budget request.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, as I said on the other amendment, for 4 years in a row, President Trump has sent us truly appalling budget request numbers for the EPA, and the Congress has overwhelmingly rejected these requests on a bipartisan basis. As I said, I predict we will do that again for the fourth year in a row.

The EPA's science and technology account does vital research on health effects of toxic chemicals and pollutants. Now, the Trump administration, by not doing this research and by not moving forward, protects corporate polluters' profits, not the health and safety of the American people. That is why, in my opinion, the administration's budget proposes to cut hundreds of millions of dollars for funding research on things like PFAS.

Now, in my constituency, I have several major municipalities that can no longer just take the water out of the ground the way that they had before, send it to the homeowners, and they could turn on their tap and safely drink it. No, it has to be filtered for PFAS. We need research. We need standards on it.

Lead. How many discussions have we had on this House floor? How many parents have we heard from? How many children have we heard from about the effects of lead in water?

Mercury. I am from Minnesota. We have fish advisories because of mercury. Pregnant women have to be careful how much fish they consume. We have postings when we go to our lakes about how much fish we can consume. Mercury is a concern to many of us.

And climate change. I am not afraid to talk about climate change. I was just on the phone with the Secretary of the Air Force, and we were talking about what we are going to have to spend in Alaska. You know, the permafrost is causing issues with radar installations not being stable—climate change. The permafrost, which is disappearing, is affecting the ability for

runways and safe landings. Climate change.

So, do we need to do the research on climate change? It is a national security issue. I am glad the EPA is out there looking at it, working with other agencies within the United States.

People across this country overwhelmingly agree we should be investing more research in PFAS. We should be getting the lead out of our water. We should be understanding what is going on with mercury. We should also be addressing the effects of climate change and, most of all, protecting our families from pollution.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, if you listen to my Democrat colleagues, you would think the EPA could not go on without this funding that we are trying to reduce. It is about being efficient.

This administration, as I had said earlier, under President Trump, emissions have fallen in every major category and overall have dropped 7 percent since 2017. Right now, we have the cleanest air since 1970.

Throwing money at an issue you care about is not the solution. Being efficient in government is the solution, and that is what the Trump EPA has done.

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So they have asked for this particular amount of money, and I am making sure that we are giving the EPA what they need, not busting the spending caps which were agreed to by Republicans and Democrats by their current proposal.

Let's keep the spending caps. Let's adopt my amendment.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I will read from the National Geographic, published April 8, 2020:

"As the novel coronavirus tears around the world, it's exploiting our biggest weaknesses, from creaking health care systems to extreme social inequality. Its relationship with one pervasive and neglected problem, however, has been more tangled: Air pollution has intensified the pandemic. . . ."

So we need to do studies on that, and the EPA works on that, but at the same time, the coronavirus has temporarily cleaned the skies.

As I said earlier, for 50 years, the EPA has been responsible for protecting public health and the environment.

We need to do research to understand how to protect public health and the environment; and more importantly than ever, we need to understand how to protect public health and the environment for people who have long been neglected, the people who are suffering the most right now, and that is the inequality, the injustice we are seeing

between Black and Brown people in the United States.

We need to do better with the EPA for addressing social injustices that have affected those populations most by living in polluted areas and being subjected to pollution. I want to work on that in Congress. The administration's cuts would cripple the EPA's ability to achieve that mission.

Madam Speaker, if I understand correctly, the gentleman has yielded his time.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1060, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was rejected.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 7608 is postponed.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIM) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 23, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 906.

That the Senate passed S. 4065.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,  
Deputy Clerk.

#### WOMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE IN DIGNITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is very difficult to respond to something that is so much out of the ordinary, but I rise today to refer to my colleague, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, and to make mention of the incident that occurred where she was described in unflattering words.

Those words were denigrating to a woman. They were equally denigrating to women of color.

One's views in this place are protected by the Constitution and protected by the First Amendment, but it is particularly sad when one's particular gender is called out and degraded, for women have been the backbone of this Nation. They have helped